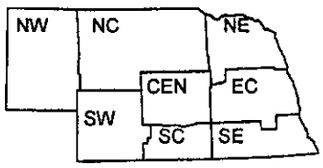
NEBRASKA
WEATHER & CROPS

NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For Week Ending May 25, 1997

Issue: 12-97 | Phone: (402) 437-5541 | P.O. Box 81069
Released: 5/27/97 - 3:00 p.m. | Location: 273 Federal Bldg. | Lincoln, NE 68501

National Agricultural Statistics Service
U.S Department of Agriculture
and U S Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admn
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Agriculture
and Natural Resources--UN-L

WEATHER

Temperatures in the Panhandle were slightly above normals while the remainder of the State averaged one to five degrees below normals. Precipitation was widespread across the State and heavy in some areas. Averages ranged from two-tenths of an inch in the north central portion of the State to nearly two inches in the Panhandle.

GENERAL

Dry conditions early last week continued to promote rapid fieldwork progress, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn planting was near completion and over two-thirds of the soybean and sorghum crops were in the ground. Reports indicated that some producers stopped planting soybeans and sorghum, due to dry soils, until they got some rain. Beginning in the west on Thursday and through the weekend, rain was received in most areas. Heavy amounts fell in portions of the Panhandle. Producer activities included spring tillage, fertilizer application, running pivots, working and moving cattle to summer pastures.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition declined from the previous week and rated 2% very poor, 18% poor, 49% fair, 29% good and 2% excellent. Best crop conditions continued to be reported in the central portions of Nebraska. By Sunday, 81% of the crop had jointed, behind 87% last year and 96% for the five-year average. The crop was 14% headed as of Sunday. This is slightly ahead of last year's 13% but behind the average of 33%. Weekend rains should improve crop condition.

CROPS (Cont.)

Corn planting was nearly complete as of Sunday. Emergence was rated at 68%, compared with last year's 67% and the five-year average of 56%. Reports in southern parts of the State indicated that some producers had replanted due to soil crusting and wire worm problems.

Soybean planting advanced at a rapid pace with 75% planted by week's end, well ahead of last year's 39% and the five-year average of 47%. The crop was 18% emerged compared with 7% last year and 17% average.

Sorghum planting activities picked up with 68% complete as of Sunday. This is well ahead of 34% last year and 37% average. The crop was 11% emerged compared with 4% last year and 12% average.

Oats condition rated 10% poor, 36% fair, 52% good, and 2% excellent.

Dry bean planting got underway last week with 5% planted as of Sunday. This is behind last year's 11% and average 7%.

Alfalfa condition rated 6% very poor, 12% poor, 39% fair, 39% good and 4% excellent. The first cutting was 1% complete compared with 1% last year but 9% average. Alfalfa growth was short due to lack of moisture and cool temperatures. Wild hay condition rated 2% very poor, 16% poor, 38% fair, 42% good, and 2% excellent.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition rated 3% very poor, 14% poor, 37% fair, 45% good, and 1% excellent. Pasture growth continued slow due to lack of moisture and cool temperatures. Cattle continued to be moved to summer pastures but supplemental feeding was necessary in some northern counties.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF MAY 25, 1997	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER-AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Planted	99	97	98	98	98	96	100	100	98	94	93	88
% Corn Emerged	46	50	48	70	80	68	83	74	68	40	67	56
% Wheat Jointed	64	61	43	95	90	98	93	99	81	63	87	96
% Wheat Headed	2	1	0	5	0	26	36	8	14	1	13	33
% Sorghum Planted	n/a	65	54	83	69	65	71	66	68	27	34	37
% Sorghum Emerged	n/a	5	3	24	15	6	17	7	11	1	4	12
% Soybeans Planted	n/a	64	74	83	72	88	95	75	75	42	39	47
% Soybeans Emerged	n/a	14	7	51	15	26	42	31	18	3	7	17
% Dry Beans Planted	3	0	20	n/a	n/a	10	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	11	7
% Alfalfa First Cutting	0	0	0	1	2	1	5	7	1	n/a	1	9
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF MAY 23, 1997												
Days suitable	5 4	6 1	6 7	6 3	6 9	6 2	6 3	6 9	6.3	6.9	3 9	
Topsoil moisture - Very Short	3	1	8	1	10	35	23	7	9	7	1	
(Percent) - Short	54	45	59	65	70	48	59	64	58	38	13	
- Adequate	43	54	31	34	20	17	18	29	33	55	71	
- Surplus	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	
Subsoil moisture - Very Short	0	0	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	2	3	
(Percent) - Short	24	7	14	27	22	63	32	19	22	16	28	
- Adequate	76	93	82	65	78	33	66	81	76	81	67	
- Surplus	0	0	3	7	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	

n/a = not available

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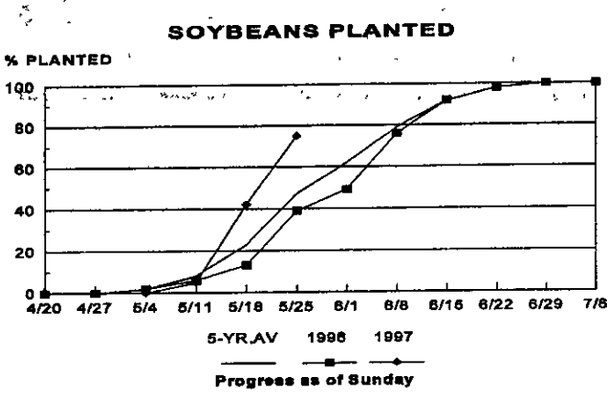
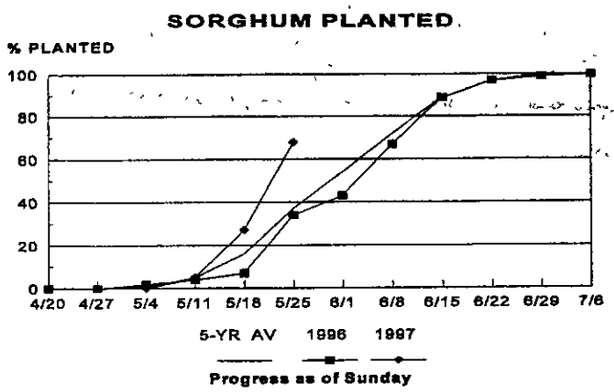
P.O. Box 81069
Lincoln, NE 68501

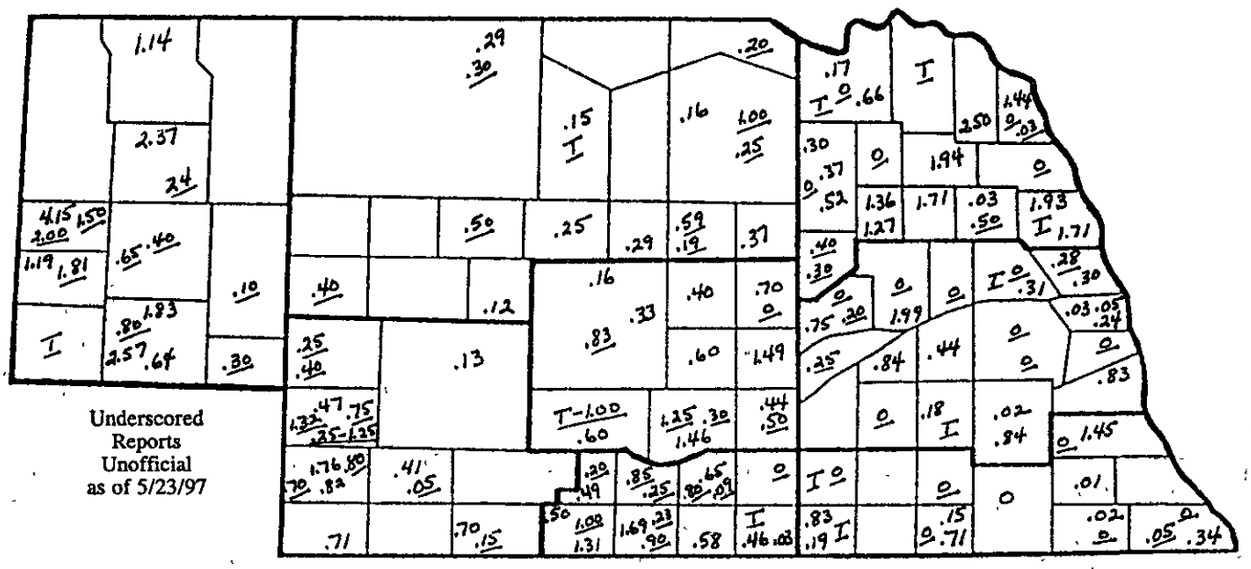
Periodical Postage
Paid at
Lincoln, Nebraska

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS (ISSN 0745-0117) is published weekly April-November and monthly December-March by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 273 Federal Building, Lincoln, NE 68508. Subscription is free to survey respondents upon request to NASS, P O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501, or by calling (402) 437-5541 and available for $15.00 per year to non-reporters. It is also available free by polling our FAX at (402) 437-5547 after 3 30 p.m CT POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS, P O Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501





PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1996



PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - MAY 24, 1997

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	1.98	.23	1.14	.69	.52	.71	.71	.41
Total since April 1	4.34	3.50	4.54	3.52	4.42	1.76	2.97	4.99
Normal since April 1	4.17	4.76	5 39	5.27	6.00	4.44	5.14	5.96
Total as % of normal	104%	74%	84%	67%	74%	40%	58%	84%

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1997

	Station	Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches	Last Week	Current	Normal
		Max	Min						
NW	Chadron	77	31	59	---	1.14	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	81	32	59	+1	4.15	298	385	343
	Sidney	77	33	56	---	.64	287	361	345
NC	Valentine	75	32	57	-3	.29	---	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	---	281	347	376
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	---	252	329	399
NE	Norfolk	82	30	58	-5	1.36	---	---	---
	Sioux City	85	32	59	-4	1.44	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	243	330	406
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	249	330	401
	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	258	358	422
CEN	Grand Island	85	33	60	-3	.44	---	---	---
	Ord	80	32	59	---	.40	273	356	410
	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	310	392	415
EC	Lincoln	89	34	62	-2	.02	290	405	452
	Omaha	88	38	61	-2	.05	---	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	291	377	420
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	288	405	441
SW	Imperial	80	39	59	---	1.76	---	---	---
	North Platte	78	36	59	-1	.13	323	401	387
	McCook	---	---	---	---	---	358	443	400
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	319	387	414
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	316	407	416
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	297	395	452
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	302	395	420

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is: Max. temp. + min. temp. divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD. For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day. GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.